



Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

— *Lee Holloway* —
Chairman of the Board

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For Immediate Release
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MINI-GRANTS AWARDED IN SAFE ALTERNATIVES FOR YOUTH PROGRAM

\$85,000 in grants distributed to organizations all across Milwaukee County

Milwaukee, WI – On behalf of Milwaukee County Board Chairman Lee Holloway, grants were presented this morning to nearly three dozen individuals and organizations making a difference across all of Milwaukee County through the Safe Alternatives for Youth (SAY) program. The intervention and prevention program was developed by Chairman Holloway in 2003 and renewed in the 2009 County Budget. The funds are targeted toward community-based services that enrich the lives of young people in Milwaukee County who may be exposed to barriers that could place them at risk in their community.

“Throughout this program, we’ve been able to help our greatest treasure – this community’s children. Providing safe and fun activities for our youth is a top priority for our community,” Chairman Holloway said. “I thank County Executive Scott Walker for supporting my vision back when this program was first introduced in the 2003 County Budget. It was very successful in the beginning, and has remained strong ever since.”

“This model allows us to fund organizations that work with our young people at the impact level by supporting them in endeavors that are both positive and enriching,” said Dr. Joan M. Prince of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Chair of the SAY Oversight Committee. “In addition to these mini-grants, we’ve been able to leverage additional support from other funding organizations.”

Since its inception in 2003, SAY has distributed small grants for one-time educational, cultural, recreational and other activities designed by community members to enhance the life experiences of disadvantaged youth in Milwaukee County. More than 100 mini-grants have impacted the lives of almost 4,000 young people in Milwaukee County since its inception.

Grant funds have supported organized activities such as youth participation in sporting events like sailing and swimming, self-empowerment activities, exposure to cultural attractions, camping and environmental activities, interaction with older adults, and other educational programs. The experience culminates with an educational day at the Milwaukee County Zoo for over 100 young people in August.

In addition to Chairman Holloway and Dr. Prince, the SAY Oversight Committee also includes Milwaukee County Supervisor Elizabeth Coggs-Jones; George Gerharz, Allied Community Solutions; Socorro Gonzales, WE Energies; Cecilia Gore, Jane Bradley Pettit Foundation; Ralph Hollman, Milwaukee Urban League; Tasha Jenkins, Fighting Back, Inc; and Dr. Diane Pollard, community representative.

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